Ticks & Removal

Tick Bites

Ticks can transmit serious and sometimes deadly diseases to humans, such as:

- Babesiosis
- Erlichiosis
- Lyme disease
- Q-fever
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever

Tick Bite Prevention

Here are some suggestions for avoiding bites:

- Wear light-colored clothes. You can see ticks more easily on light-colored clothes.
- Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt that has a collar. Tuck in your shirt.
- When working in heavily-infested areas, wrap duct tape around the cuffs of your pants, sealing your pants to your boots .

Tick Bite Prevention

- Apply repellents to discourage tick attachment. Repellents containing permethrin can be sprayed on boots and clothing, and will last for several days.
- Repellents containing DEET (n, n-diethyl-m-toluamide) can be applied to the skin, but will last only a few hours before reapplication is necessary.
- Use DEET with caution on children. Application of large amounts of DEET on children has been associated with adverse reactions.

Tick Bite Prevention

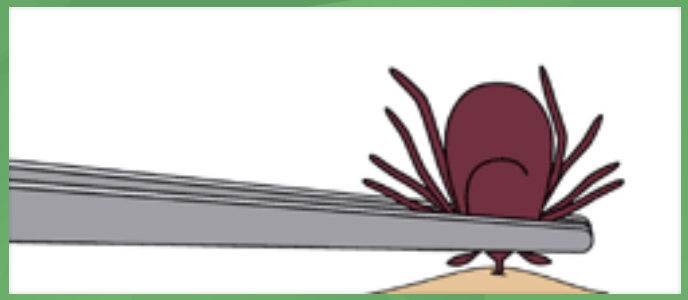
- Avoid dense grass, weeds and deer-bedding areas.
- Check yourself for ticks when you return. Most are large enough to be seen easily, but some are tiny, so check carefully on your scalp, behind your ears, under your arms and groin area.

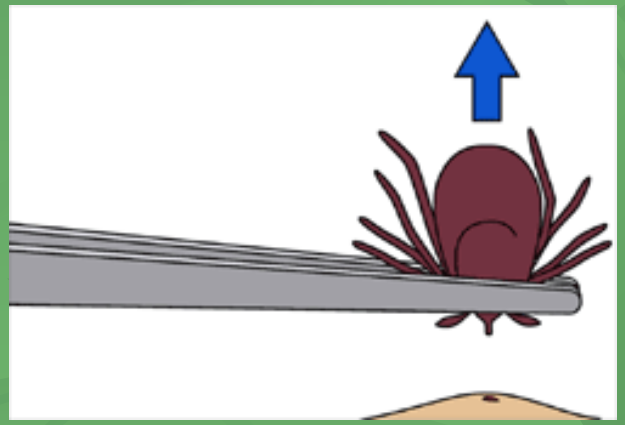
Tick Removal

- If the tick has started to bite and is attached, carefully remove it with a pair of tweezers or commercial tick-removing tool.

Tick Removal

- If using tweezers, grasp the tick at the place of attachment, as close to the skin as possible.
- Gently pull the tick straight out.





Tick Removal – Do's

- If the mouthparts break off in the skin, they can cause secondary infections and should be removed like a splinter.
- If available, place tick in a small bottle of rubbing alcohol.
- Disinfect bite area and tweezers with rubbing alcohol and wash hands. Use an antibiotic ointment like Neosporin.

Tick Removal – Don’ts

- Do not crush, puncture, or squeeze the tick's body.
- Do not apply substances such as petroleum jelly, gasoline, lidocaine (Xylocaine), etc., to the tick.
- Do not apply heat with a match or hot nail.
- Do not use a twisting or jerking motion to remove the tick.
- Do not handle the tick with bare hands.